

**From:** Chauncey Orton  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/28/02 2:18pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Attached is our pro-opinion for the settlement of the Microsoft case.

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29651 Wilhite Lane  
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January 27, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

Approval of the Microsoft case settlement will be in the best interests of America. The case has gone on long enough for the parties to state their cases and present their evidence. Also, the settlement addresses all the issues in the litigation and goes beyond the scope of the litigation. The parties could agree to terms beyond the litigation, but the judge would be restricted to only the formal issues. So, the settlement is better than anything even the judge could do. What is more, the settlement means that there would be no time consuming and potentially derailing court proceedings. The economy does not have stability needed for growth when one of America's leading industries is in an unsettling wrangle.

The settlement will provide greater flexibility, cooperation and stability within the information technology industry. Microsoft will open up its business practices and software code. A committee of technically skilled and recognized software engineering expert parishioners will see that the terms are followed and hear and investigate any complaints.

Enriching our legal system further is counter productive to expanding businesses. A one time legal business charge this past year, of 2/3 of a billion dollars to defend itself from its own government, is outrageous. The U.S. government is very concerned about what Enron did to their employee's retirement funds and they should be. But on a much larger scale, the government should look at what their actions did to the Microsoft stockholders' retirement funds.

We look forward to your leadership of bringing the Gov. vs. Microsoft's legal case to an end and focus on the real threat against the U S.- the terrorist. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Steve and Suzanne Orton

cc: Representative Darrell Issa

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